

AD-416/417 SPECIAL CLASSIFICATION CODING
Supplement to ARS On-Line Manual
Chapter 13A

- ☐ Use Special Classification Code BARD 100% for Bard Projects
- ☐ Use Special Classification Code CRG 100% for CSREES Competitive Grants
- ☐ Use Special Classification Code CRADA 100% for CRADAS's
- ☐ IF BRCOM coding is added, the certification line must be added to the Approach section of the AD-416
- ☐ BPMS codes can only be added by HQS
- ☐ All inhouse projects, D, R and T types, are to have the Farm Bill Special Classification Code(s) and a Sustainable Agriculture Special Classification Code on the AD-417.

Farm Bill Coding

FBP1	Continue to satisfy human food and fiber needs.
FBP2	Enhance the long-term viability and competitiveness of food production and agricultural system of the United States within the global economy.
FBP3	Expand economic opportunities in rural America and enhance the quality of life for farmers, rural citizens and society as a whole.
FBP4	Improve the productivity of the American agricultural system and develop new agricultural crops and new uses for agricultural commodities.
FBP5	Develop information and systems to enhance the environment and the natural resource base upon which a sustainable agricultural economy depends.
FBP6	Enhance human health by fostering the availability and affordability of a safe, wholesome, and nutritious food supply that meets the needs and preferences of the consumer;-and by assisting farmers and other rural residents in the detection and prevention of health and safety concerns.

- ☐ The assigned percentage must equal 100% for each project.
- ☐ If multiple codes are assigned to the project, the assigned percentage cannot exceed 100%, with a minimum of 10% for a single code.

FARM BILL CODES from ARIS

FBP	FBP	FARM BILL PURPOSES
FBP1	FBP	HUMAN FOOD & FIBER NEEDS
FBP2	FBP	FOOD PRODUCTION & AGR SYS
FBP3	FBP	ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
FBP4	FBP	NEW AGR CROPS & NEW USES
FBP5	FBP	ENVIRON & NATURL RESOURCE
FBP6	FBP	ENHANCE HUMAN HEALTH

Sustainable Agriculture Coding

- ☐ Use SA-X for the coding, derived from a protocol that uses seven criteria.
- ☐ Each project is to be rated on each of the seven criteria.
- ☐ In each case, the question to be answered is whether a project contributes to sustainability according to the criteria at hand (+), is neutral (0), or even detracts (-1).
- ☐ Adding the seven scores makes possible final scores from -7 to +7.
- ☐ Those projects scoring +2 or better are judged to contribute significantly.
- ☐ Those scoring +4 or better are judged to be wholly dedicated to furthering sustainable agriculture.
- ☐ Worksheet is found at end of Supplemental Manual.

1. Integrated System Of Plant And Animal Production Practices

Research dealing with whole-farm systems. The research should include the influence of non-controllable variables, farm enterprise managers, external inputs, management of the atmospheric, aquatic, energy, soil and organic resources of the ecosystem in relation to food, feed or fiber production. In general, the research should use a holistic and interdisciplinary approach. The objective should be to sustain the economic viability of the specific farming enterprise type while making effective use of natural resources in an environmentally sound manner, and to use appropriate natural biological cycles and controls to minimize dependency on external inputs.

2. Satisfy Human Food And Fiber Needs

Research designed to contribute to the long-term goal of producing an adequate amount of safe and nutritious food and of fiber in an economically viable, environmentally sound and sociologically acceptable manner. In general, the research should focus on technologies and practices that reduce dependence of crop and livestock agriculture on external inputs such as fuel, irrigation, water, fertilizers and pesticides.

3. Enhance Environmental Quality

Research designed to enhance environmental quality through the development of practices that minimize the degradation of soil, water, air or organic resources from chemicals, erosion or waste products, or restores them. The research may deal with concerns of both off-site and on-site impacts of agricultural practices. This may be accomplished through efficient utilization of nutrients and practices that prevent leaching, control erosion or recycle wastes safely and beneficially through application to agricultural land.

4. Natural Resource Conservation and Enhancement

Research that promotes the development of technologies and practices that conserve soil, water, energy and organic resources. Natural resource conservation research in agriculture usually deals with processes designed to make more efficient use of natural resources or to control the degradation of these resources. Control of erosion, nutrient runoff and organic matter depletion are examples of types of natural resource conservation that can be achieved through the development of procedures such as reduced tillage,

covercrop and crop rotation systems. Providing adequate levels of micronutrients from industrial wastes or other sources is another example of natural resource conservation.

5. Biological Resource Utilization

Research leading to the development of technologies and practices that promote the use of beneficial biological systems and processes to maintain and improve soil quality, protect crops and reduce the need for external inputs. Examples include biological pest controls, biological nitrogen fixation, recycling of organic wastes and residues, composting of rural, suburban and urban wastes and increasing populations of beneficial insects, nematodes, earthworms and microflora. Crops may also be selected or genetically altered for characteristics that improve soil physical properties, drought tolerance, pest and disease resistance, and production of organic residues which protect soils from erosion and ground water from contamination.

6. Economic Viability

Research designed to develop practices and systems that minimize risk and enhance the economic viability of farm operations, with emphasis on the family farm. The research should focus on long-term sustainability, but cannot ignore the need for short-term economic survival. The impact of local, state or national farm policy should be included. To avoid continued overloading and depression of prices in the food and fiber markets, avenues should be developed to alter farm products in alternative markets such as energy, paper and building materials; development of new products is an example of contributing to economic viability and may also support quality of life.

7. Quality of Life

Research that promotes the development of farming systems designed to enhance the quality of life for farmers, members of rural communities and society as a whole. The research should result in improved health, safety, and stability in the rural community; it should contribute to increased on-farm and local employment through emphasis on local added value opportunities and on reducing dependence on purchased inputs by substituting managerial increases of on-farm and local employment through emphasis on local value added opportunities and on reducing dependence on purchased inputs by substituting managerial skills and local resources.

BRCOM Coding

Due to security issues, changes are being made to exclude previously cited information for any projects doing biosafety research.

- ☐ It is the responsibility of the Management Unit to provide the Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) with a project summary so that the Committee can complete the certification, recertification, or exemption, unless you have other procedures in place at your location.
 - ☐ If this information is not available during entry of the project into ARIS, the project should be amended as soon as the principal investigator receives approval from IBC.
 - ☐ BRCOM is the Special Classification code used on the AD-417 when a project requires a Biosafety Level and review by the IBC.
 - ☐ If you have a BRCOM code, you must have BT code(s). The BRCOM PERCENTAGE should NOT BE GREATER than the total BT percentages on the AD-417.
 - ☐ If your project(s) is coded BRCOM, the last sentence of the Approach Statement on the AD-416 should record the date of approval and the Biosafety Level assigned to the project by the IBC.
 - ☞ Type in the 416 REMARKS Section, **"IBC information updated."**
 - ☞ Presentation of the required information should be in the following format:
 - ☞ For new projects being certified: **BSL-1; Certified** February 25, 2001
 - ☞ For recertifying projects: **BSL-1; Recertified** February 25, 2001
 - For BL-Exempt projects: **BSL-Exempt; Recertified** February 25, 2001
- NOTE: Do not include city, state, laboratory name, room number or names of scientists.**
- ☐ **BRCOM coded projects MUST BE recertified ANNUALLY.**
 - ☐ Some locations receive Biosafety Level certification which covers a period of more than one year. In those instances, the Biosafety Level would be recertified at the end of that period of time.
 - ☐ If the project is EXEMPT at the time it is being recertified, the BRCOM code remains on the 417; DO NOT remove it.
 - ☐ When the project has been recertified, it must show "recertified mm/dd/yy".

Biotechnology Research Projects

Background: Biotechnology is defined as the use of living organisms, cells, subcellular organelles, and/or parts of those structures, as well as the molecules, to effect chemical or physical changes needed to generate new products for research and commercialization. Specifically, biotechnology is the use of genetically engineered recombinant nucleic acid molecules to effect desired changes in biological materials.

It is the policy of ARS to explore applications of biotechnology methods that have potential to solve priority problems of national scope. ARS will use vigilance in investigating new applications of biotechnology to ensure the protection of both public health and the environment. All biotechnology research will be carried out in accordance with applicable Federal regulations and research guidelines.

Research Guidelines: It is the responsibility of each ARS scientist to comply with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant DNA Molecules. This shall include submission of the research protocol to the IBC for review and determination. A risk assessment of the proposed research must be made, and an assignment of one of four Biosafety Levels (BSL-1 through 4; BSL-4 being the most stringent containment condition). The risk assessment is initially made by the principal investigator and must receive concurrence from both appropriate NPL and the IBC. The four Biosafety Levels reflect a combination of: Laboratory practices and techniques, safety equipment, laboratory facilities appropriate for the operations performed and the hazard posed by agents, and for the laboratory functions and activities.

NOTE:

RESEARCH CANNOT BE INITIATED UNTIL FINAL APPROVAL FROM THE IBC HAS BEEN RECEIVED. FURTHERMORE, THE SCIENTIST MUST ANNUALLY SUBMIT A REPORT/ REQUEST TO THE LOCAL IBC FOR REVIEW, RECERTIFICATION AND APPROVAL OF THE BIOTECHNOLOGY RESEARCH.